

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

For Release September 14, 1977

McGarvey 202/343-5634

U.S. SCIENTISTS TO SWITZERLAND FOR INTERNATIONAL WORKING SESSION ON ENDANGERED SPECIES

A 15-member U.S. delegation will go to Geneva, Switzerland, in October for a 10-day working conference with foreign governments which have signed the International Convention on Commerce in Endangered Species, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Robert L. Herbst said today.

Delegates nominated and awaiting accreditation by the State Department include wildlife and botany professionals and representatives of both sides of the pro-hunting vs. anti-hunting controversy, he said.

The first international conference was held in Berne, Switzerland, last November. This year's conference, opening October 17, will be on technical matters, covering topics raised at the 1976 meeting.

The session next month will deal with such topics as humane transport of live animals, the problem of identification of species, and provision of rescue centers for confiscated animals and plants.

Keith M. Schreiner, Associate Director of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will head the delegation.

Among the other U.S. delegates already named (in alphabetical order) are:

Dr. Edward Ayensu, Botanist, Smithsonian Institution.

Clark Bavin, Chief, Division of Law Enforcement, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dr. William Brown, Executive Secretary, Endangered Species Scientific Authority, Interior Department.

Dr. Wayne King, Herpetologist, New York Zoological Society.

Arthur Lazarowitz, Wildlife Permits Office Staff, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Richard M. Parsons, Chief, U.S. Management Authority, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Terry Wolkerstorfer, Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary Herbst.

Selection processes are under way for representatives of the Defenders of Wildlife; Safari Club International; International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; U.S. Department of State, and a veterinarian, a zoologist, and a botanist representing their separate professional disciplines.